



Maryland



Delaware

July 21, 2010

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We applaud you for your tremendous leadership in clean energy and green job development. Supporting renewable energy, particularly offshore wind technologies, enhances our energy security and fuel diversity, reduces harmful pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, and encourages a vibrant, U.S. clean energy industry. Collectively, these reasons demonstrate the imperative need to accelerate the development of offshore wind energy in the mid-Atlantic. To that end, we would like to present an opportunity for a unique partnership between the federal government, Maryland and Delaware.

The proximity of Washington, D.C. to the mid-Atlantic's wind resources, coupled with the number of federal agencies and military installations in and around the DC metropolitan region, creates an exceptional opportunity to forge a federal-state partnership for the development of a power purchase agreement for offshore wind-generated energy. Development of one gigawatt (GW) of wind energy in the mid-Atlantic region could lead to the creation of 15,000-20,000 clean energy jobs. The environmental and economic benefits of such collaboration cannot be understated.

To achieve this goal, we respectfully ask you to consider directing the appropriate federal agencies, including the Department of Defense and the General Services Administration, to join with Maryland and Delaware in offering a power purchase agreement for a gigawatt of offshore wind energy from the mid-Atlantic region to power federal facilities in the National Capital Region. The State of Maryland has already offered a long term contract to purchase 55 megawatts of offshore wind and Delaware's Public Service Commission has authorized its utilities to enter into a similar long term contract for 200 megawatts. By combining our market power with that of the federal government, we can drive demand for over one GW of offshore wind energy in the mid-Atlantic. This would create the economies of scale necessary to significantly reduce the cost of offshore wind development, attract manufacturers of offshore wind equipment and installation vessels, and develop high paying green jobs for our workers.

We further ask you to please continue to support legislative efforts that would remove barriers to such an opportunity. Specifically, we ask you to support allowing the General Services Administration to enter into power purchase agreements beyond ten years. For example, Sen. Tom Carper's "Improving Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Use by Federal Agencies Act" (S. 3251) would vastly enhance the federal government's ability to reach its renewable portfolio goals, and to make a large offshore wind purchase feasible. Other legislative efforts such as increasing loan guarantees, extending the production tax credit, and streamlining the offshore wind permitting process are also critical to removing barriers that hinder development of offshore wind.

Finally, we respectfully request that steps be taken to facilitate interagency coordination of issues relating to offshore wind energy among the appropriate interested agencies. Secretary Salazar's strong leadership at the Department of Interior has led to a welcome embrace of offshore wind technologies and has been paramount to the progress that is being made. Likewise, Secretary Chu is taking real and important steps to help offshore wind become a reality in the United States. Building on their efforts, we believe coordination with the Departments of Defense, Commerce (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), the General Services Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency would help address the array of interagency issues that have presented themselves.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued leadership in moving us towards a green energy economy.

Respectfully yours,



Governor Martin O'Malley  
State of Maryland



Governor Jack Markell  
State of Delaware

cc. Secretary Steven Chu, Department of Energy  
Secretary Robert M. Gates, Department of Defense  
Secretary Kenneth L. Salazar, Department of Interior  
Secretary Gary Locke, Department of Commerce  
Administrator Lisa Jackson, Environmental Protection Agency  
Administrator Martha N. Johnson, General Services Administration